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Mississippi WMU gives MBS \$5,000 for missions chair

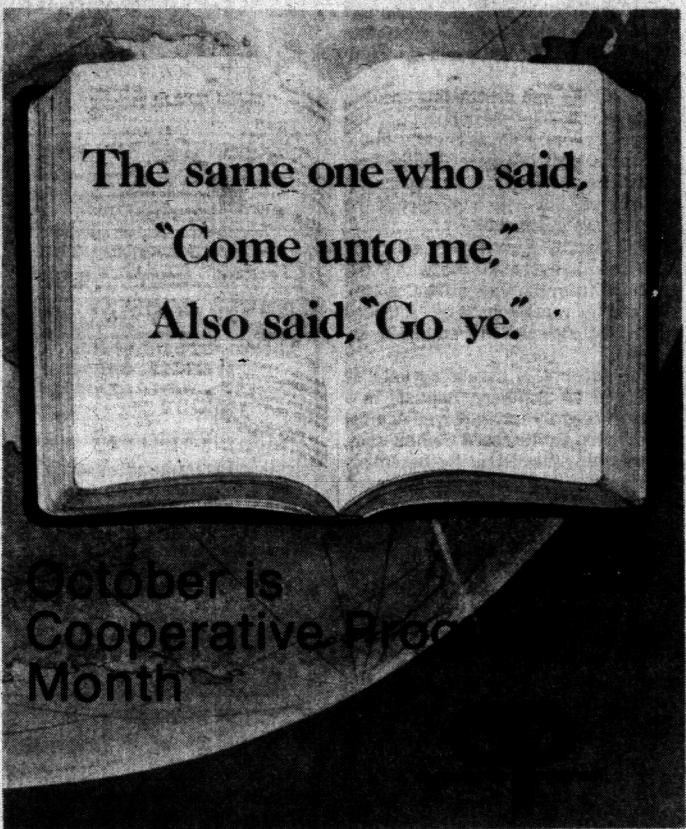
Mississippi Baptist Seminary is establishing the Lillian Rose Moore Chair of Missions with a gift of \$5,000 from the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The money comes from the 1981 Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day Offering taken on May 4, 1981.

The Chair is being named after Lillian Rose Moore who was an employee of the Mississippi WMU for eight years from 1945-53 working with black women in the state.

She was a graduate of Jackson State College (now University) and American Baptist Seminary in Nashville. The daughter of a minister, she married a minister, Alex Kersh, who died, then she married another minister, H. B. Moore. She passed away in 1967.

Brogan said that a teacher to fill the Chair will be named at some time in the near future.

Marjean Patterson, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, presents a check for \$5,000 to Dick Brogan president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary to establish the Lillian Rose Moore Chair of Missions.



Opportunities for service in South America crop up

A number of projects have been approved by all entities for the Mississippi Partners with the Rio de la Plata—Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. Other projects will be submitted for approval as time passes. The Baptist Record will maintain a continually upgraded projects list for the consideration of those who are interested in a volunteer ministry in the Rio de la Plata.

A skeletal list of all approved projects will be presented on a regular basis with additions and deletions as they need to be made. Additionally, there will be an effort to highlight several projects with each presentation.

Paraguay

Earlier this year the front wall of a section of the Baptist Theological Institute in Asuncion collapsed when utility crews damaged the foundation. The utility company disclaims any responsibility, so the institute is faced with rebuilding. Two to four bricklayers and an electrician will be needed. The project will take two to three weeks, and the construction will be of solid masonry, not veneer. The electrician will not be needed until the construction crew has almost finished. Housing will be furnished, but the crews will need to furnish their own board, estimated to be about \$80 to \$100 per week. The work can be done in late October, in November, or in December.

This is spring and early summer. This is spring and early summer.

Uruguay

A director of Vacation Bible School workshops is needed for the Month of (Continued on page 2)

Videotape explains Cooperative Program

In a quiet country churchyard, Earl Kelly explains the simplicity of the Cooperative Program. That Southern Baptist channel of giving can be glimpsed on a 20 minute videotape (half inch VHS format) available to churches through the Associational offices or through the videotape services office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

In the film, Kelly, executive secretary of the convention board, hosts an introduction to the ministry of the Cooperative Program and its many facets.

Those facets are reflected in visual presentations of what is happening in the cause of Christ at home and abroad because of the commitments churches make to the Cooperative Program.

The program also offers insight into what the Cooperative Program makes possible in Mississippi through the ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Executive Committee Budgets \$106,000,000

The recommendation of a budget of \$106 million for the Southern Baptist Convention for 1982-83 was approved by the SBC Executive Committee during its September meeting. The committee also gave its attention to the consideration of a new office building for its staff and a proposal that Baptist Press be made a separate agency rather than a part of the Executive Committee framework.

The Baptist Press study stemmed from a motion made during the convention's meeting in June in Los Angeles. If adopted by the convention next June in New Orleans, the \$106 million budget will be the first one to go past the \$100 million mark in the history of the convention. The action last week

by the Executive Committee established only the overall goal to be presented to the convention. Details of the proposal will be filled in by the committee in February.

The overall goal endorsed by the committee is divided into three parts. The basic operating budget proposal is \$96,635,000. The capital needs portion is \$3,365,000. A Bold Mission Challenge section is \$6 million.

The possibility of a new office building was raised by William A. Fortune of Knoxville, Tenn., an Executive Committee member who was elected vice-chairman at this meeting. Fortune, a builder, projected a possible cost of \$6 to \$7 million for a new building. He said the firm of which he is president, Rentenbach Engineering

Co., could handle all of the details at a substantial savings and without having to borrow the money. A separate story gives more details. The committee enlarged its SBC Building Long-Range Study Committee and will continue to study the proposal.

Fortune is chairman of the Long-Range Study Committee; and other members have been Dotson M. Nelson of Birmingham, Ala., and Rodney Landes of El Dorado, Ark. Added to the committee were W. Dewey Presley, a banker, of Dallas, Texas, and the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. At this point the president is Bailey Smith, pastor of the First

Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla.

The Executive Committee told the long-range study group to report back with complete details in February.

In connection with the building proposal, the committee also accepted the gift of a building site at Ninth Avenue North and Commerce Street in Nashville. The site, adjacent to the Sunday School Board, was a gift of the Sunday School Board and contingent on a building being constructed on it. Sunday School Board trustees made the site available during their August meeting. Its worth was estimated at \$400,000.

There was also no action taken on the Baptist Press proposal. The (continued on page 2)

Student revival evidences higher spiritual awareness

"What is S-L-R?" read the lapel buttons sported by a number of William Carey College students the week of Sept. 14.

The buttons were promotional devices designed to tell students at Carey about the student-led revival, a BSU-sponsored event.

When questioned, those sporting the buttons gave some variation of the following answer: "It means Student-Led Revival, and there will be six services this week. We want you to come." Then they would go on to say when the services would be held, and sometimes they would have an opportunity to witness.

It was this type of person-to-person contact, in addition to hours of preliminary prayer and planning, that made this year's revival such a success, said Tom Hearon, director of religious activities at Carey, in commenting on the revival.

According to Hearon, two professions of faith were made prior to the revival because of students' personal witnessing; one profession of faith was made during the revival; and another person surrendered to the call to preach.

Even after the revival ended, the effects were still being seen, said Hearon. "The Sunday morning following the revival, just after midnight, a student came by to talk with me about a personal burden and to ask my help in witnessing to a friend."

The services themselves drew a broad cross-section of students, and the average attendance for the six services was 160. "But what was really a thrill was to see the Kresge Room fill up even at those meetings that weren't required. For those five meetings, attendance averaged just more than 115," commented Hearon. "At the Wednesday morning service, latecomers were standing against the walls and sitting on the floor."

"The response is evidence of a growing spiritual awareness on this campus," said William Clawson, chairman of Carey's Department of Biblical Studies and Church Vocations. "The spiritual atmosphere is much better this year than it has been for the past few years, and the students have shown a wonderfully cooperative spirit."

The revival messages were brought by six students who are majoring in biblical studies and church vocations: Phil Kimrey of Chattanooga, Fla.; Carlos Smith of Picayune; Randy Rawls of Houston, Texas; Maurice Davis of Waynesboro; Jay Morrison of Slidell, La.; and Denny Deavers of Monticello.

Leading the congregational singing were Robert Beaver of Gulfport; Randall Goins of Hattiesburg; Carey Steel of Columbus; Jim Furno of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Jerry Watts of Independence; and Bobby Quick of Columbus.

Other students who presented special musical selections were Bob Allen of Glastonbury, Conn.; Cindy Hill of Wiggins; Robert Chichester of Hattiesburg; Kevin Mays of Tampa, Fla.; and Renee Eaton of Dothan, Ala.

All those working with music are students in the college's School of Music.

State convention: Nov. 9-11; messenger election time: now

By Don McGregor, editor

The Baptist system is built on information and participation. The annual Mississippi Baptist Convention is only a few weeks away, and participation should be high on the list of consideration by the churches.

It is time to elect messengers. Mississippi Baptists need the information and inspiration that is to be gained at the convention in order to carry on effectively the work that they organize to do through the convention. They need this information to be able to participate in the missions endeavors that they outline for themselves through convention procedures.

Organizing our work through convention procedures is the way we carry out the Lord's work beyond the immediate influence of our churches. It cannot be accomplished without participating. The better the participation, the better the work is organized and the more effective it is.

Through the convention we are much better able to carry out what the Lord expects us to do. The convention is missions involvement, and missions is what we are all about as Baptists.

Every church that possibly can should have messengers at the convention. Every church can have at least one, according to the convention constitution. The naming of additional messengers depends on the size of the church. The maximum is 10.

There are almost 2,000 churches, yet convention messenger enrollment seldom goes beyond 1,300.

The participation needs to be better if we are to be more effective in our missions outreach.

After radio worship scrapped, church scores with talk show

By Bob E. Mathews

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)—On Aug. 23, for the first time in about 50 years, the morning worship service of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, was not broadcast on radio.

A change in formats at station KOMA which had broadcast the church's service since 1931 took the church off radio, though morning services are still telecast.

Pastor Gene Garrison told members, "Audience ratings do not indicate that the weekly broadcast of our worship service is the wisest and best use of our time and money."

Faced with the change, Garrison and church leaders decided to take KOMA's offer of an alternate time and to try "something radically different."

So at 11 p.m. on a recent Sunday, Garrison went to the KOMA studios for the first broadcast of "Straight Line to the Pastor." KOMA is 1520 on AM dial. The format calls for a talk show

where listeners call in and talk with Garrison on the air . . . no long preaching, no long songs.

Garrison, "frightened to death" and wondering who would be listening from 11 to midnight, hit the air "cold," no theme music, no introduction. Just "Good evening, I'm Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and the name of the program is Straight Line to the Pastor. Our phone number is 460-1520." He opened his Bible, read a few verses of Scripture and made a few comments while keeping an eye on the phone lights.

By 11:05 the lines lit up and the calls started coming. The first caller, a young woman, asked how to pick the right church or denomination.

Garrison explained that a personal faith in Jesus as her Savior is more important than a certain church and that she should attend where the doctrine is true to the Scriptures, where she could be fed spiritually and have her needs met.

Garrison's concern about getting calls was for naught. During the hour the longest time without a call was less than two minutes.

In all, 21 calls were answered during the 58 minutes he was on the air. Subjects discussed by Garrison and the listeners included "sinless perfection," abortion, homosexuals, "know-it-all Baptists," the Ku Klux Klan using the Bible as justification of its deeds, a Christian dating a non-Christian, unmarried people living together and backsliding.

The bulk of callers seemed to be people seeking straight answers to serious questions and probably taking advantage of the opportunity to talk to a minister while remaining anonymous. Only one or two tended to be argumentative and Garrison deftly handled their calls, managing to keep them from dominating the time.

A minister who had been fired from his church and divorced from his wife (Continued on page 2)

Baptist Student Union to appoint 70 to missions, raise \$60,000

Students attending the annual Baptist Student Union Convention in Columbus this past weekend approved involvement of 70 of their number in the 1982 student missions program.

More than 750 college and university students from 26 campuses in Mississippi attended the BSU Convention at First Baptist Church, Columbus. These students also approved a budget goal of \$60,000 for the student missions work.

That \$60,000, which is from direct donations from the students themselves, will go to provide transportation and expenses for the summer missionaries to be appointed by the state BSU.

A total of \$848.12 was taken up for student missions during the convention.

Five students from the University of Southern Mississippi rode bicycles to the convention having received

pledges for \$1,200 toward students missions from their fellow students. The five covered 95 miles in their trek.

The students approved as tentative mission positions, service in at least 11 countries and 30 of the 35 state convention areas. They approved a setting aside of \$5,000 for possible involvement in student missions in the Rio de la Plata Project wherein Mississippi Baptists provide volunteers for missions projects in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

Another \$5,000 was set aside for financial aid to other than summer missions projects where student groups travel to mission projects during the school year. The money will help with up to 50 percent of expenses, not more than \$700 per project.

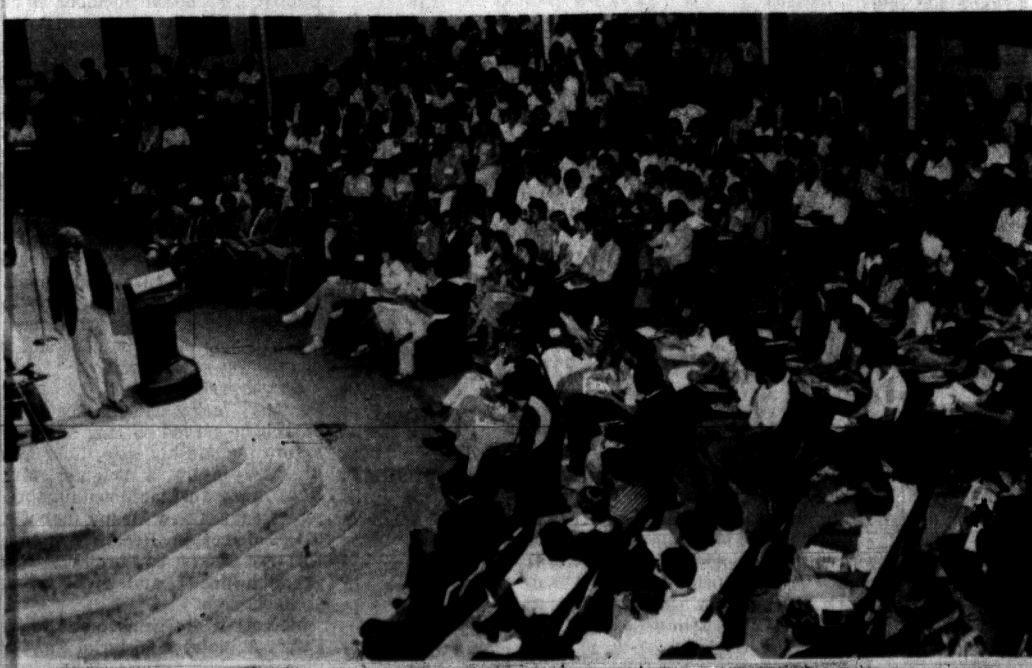
The foreign countries for which the Mississippi BSU has offered to find students to serve this next summer include: China, India, Indonesia, Guam, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Cayman Islands, Japan, Switzerland.

One student will be needed as a semester missionary (January-May of 1982) in Spain.

Activities of summer missionaries, both home and foreign, include teaching English, nursing, Christian entertainment, construction, inner city, resort work, rural missions, correctional institute work, singing, and preaching.

The BSU Convention included Chester Swor and Baker James Cauthen as featured speakers. Jerry Jones of the Foreign Mission Board, and a number of students gave testimonies. Swor is a lecturer and author from Jackson. Cauthen is retired president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Swor led in three Bible studies during the convention. Cauthen delivered a sermon during a missions commitment service on Saturday evening. One hundred and eleven students registered decisions following the service, most were reported to be related to "seeking God's will in their lives."



Glaze of Mississippi College, presides over the approximately 750 students attending the annual BSU convention in Columbus, at First Baptist Church. (More pictures next week.)

Some hunger funds unspent, FMB improves distribution

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Foreign Mission Board leaders, facing an escalating influx of world hunger and relief dollars from concerned Southern Baptists, believe they have designed approaches which will decrease lag time between receipt of the funds and disbursement.

The board appropriated more than \$6 million over the last two years to help meet hunger and relief needs. But, with more than \$4.5 million still unallocated as of July 31, 1981, the leaders say they can report only partial success in handling the time lag.

Cut lag time

Another \$1 million, appropriated for specific projects, is in the process of disbursement, and John R. Cheyne, consultant for relief ministries, has projected plans to cut lag time on other funds. The plans would seek to avoid costly expenditures on simplistic solutions and prevent large sums from remaining unspent and collecting interest.

R. Keith Parks, board president, and his administrative staff continue to emphasize that in doing so the board must maintain its primary role in evangelism and church planting and make all that it does, including hunger and relief, compatible with that.

Even with more than 3,000 missionaries in 95 countries, Cheyne points out, the board has been understaffed with field specialists in the area of hunger and relief ministries. That has been a major factor in slowing down use of funds.

"If Southern Baptists are seriously committed to a continued and growing response to world hunger and relief needs," adds Winston Crawley, vice president for planning, "the number of career missionaries trained for and committed to that ministry—along with evangelism and church planting—must multiply quickly" to ease the burden on missionaries involved in other ongoing ministries.

Add consultant

In the months to come, Cheyne will have an associate relief ministries consultant to work with the board and to coordinate the work of the board's relief ministries in the field.

The consultants, plus workers with refugees, a growing number of agricultural missionaries and eventual addition of other specialists, will lay the ground work for coordinating hunger and relief ministries on the field. The specialists also will help field missionaries devise approaches to make such ministries an integral part of their evangelistic and church planting efforts.

Bethel (Jones) will mark centennial

Bethel Church, Jones County, will observe its 100th anniversary Oct. 4. The church was organized in 1881. The building has grown from a log cabin to a masonry building.

It is located three miles east of Sandersville. The centennial will be featured as an old-timers' day with dinner being served. A former pastor, W. O. Pippen, will bring the morning message. The afternoon program will present a history of the church, and singing. Anniversary pins will be given to all who attend.

The pastor is Lewis Allred. Deacons are Donald Gatlin, chairman; Douglas Gatlin, George D. Williams, N. O. Windham, A. R. Lightsey, E. L. Yarber, Bruce Kelly, and Arthur Butler.

Mississippi Baptisms

These two lists, provided by the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department, are based on the 1979-80 associational year.

Highest number of baptisms

Church	Baptisms	Per 100 Members
Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport	164	21.52
First Baptist Church, Jackson	143	3.28
Woodlawn, Vicksburg	92	6.64
Broadmoor, Jackson	90	3.05
Parkway, Jackson	88	3.11
First Baptist Church, Horn Lake	76	5.99
Colonial Hills, Southaven	75	6.24
Morrison Heights, Clinton	72	4.42
First Baptist Church, Gautier	75	9.88
Grace Memorial, Tupelo	70	45.02
South Louisville	66	23.04
River Hills, Fulton	64	26.55
First Baptist Church, Greenville	64	3.45
Parkway, Natchez	63	5.58
North Columbia	62	13.66
Steep Hollow, Poplarville	60	16.35

Highest ratio of baptisms per 100 members

Association	Church	Ratio	Baptisms
Riverside	Little Texas, Tunica	60.61	50
Lee	Grace Memorial, Tupelo	45.02	70
Union	Palestine, Blue Mountain	39.04	10
Pontotoc	Gershorn, Pontotoc	35.11	23
Pontotoc	Valley Grove, Tupelo	35.09	50
Union County	Clark Street, Memphis	34.85	23
Union County	New Zion, W. Memphis	34.85	15
Gulf Coast	Metropolitan, Gulfport	32.84	11
Lowndes	Artesia, Columbus	30.97	24
Neshoba	New Harmony, Philadelphia	29.09	16
Walshall	Meigs, Tylertown	28.12	53
Gulf Coast	Success, Saucier	28.07	32

In 1978, Southern Baptists gave \$1,748,000 through the board for world hunger and relief. The amounts rose to \$3,090,523 in 1979 and \$5,669,864 in 1980—a total of more than \$10.5 million. During the same three years, the board spent more than \$6.3 million of that amount for hunger and relief projects.

Opportunities for service in South America crop up

(Continued from page 1)

tevidio area. The need is for November or early December. The person, through an interpreter, would present techniques, methods, or ideas in a VBS workshop for representatives from all the Baptist churches of the Montevideo area. Attendance would be about 50. If time allowed, the person could also present workshops in individual churches outside of Montevideo. Housing, food, and transportation would be provided.

Argentina

A construction crew is needed in March to install an acoustical ceiling and air conditioning units in the unfinished communications building at the International Seminary in Buenos Aires. The size of the crew will dictate how fast the work can be done. Room and board will be furnished.

Additional Information

Any additional information concerning any of the projects listed may be obtained from the office of the Coordinator, Mission to the Rio de la Plata, Baptist Building, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Phone, (601) 968-3822.

Type of Work—Location—When Needed—Number of people needed: Argentina

Bricklaying; South Buenos Aires; October; 12 to 15.
Bricklaying; Cruz del Eje; October; 8 to 10.
Bricklaying; Olavarria; October; 6 to 8.
Teaching children; Olavarria; October; 5 to 6.
Music; Chacabuco; October; 10 to 15.
Preaching and music; West Buenos Aires; through November; 2 to 3.
Preaching, personal work, masonry, plumbing, repairs; Mendoza; through November; 10.
Install acoustical ceilings and air conditioners; Buenos Aires; March; as many as necessary.

Through July 31, Southern Baptists have given more than \$1.8 million in 1981, and the board, beginning to cut into the backlog, has disbursed more than \$2 million. Cheyne credits the increased disbursements to long-range planning, larger projects, and growing ability of missionaries to utilize resources.

Missionary children's program; Buenos Aires; October, 1982; 5.

Mission meeting children's program; Baptist Assembly, Cordoba; July; 10.

Paraguay

Bricklayers, electricians; Asuncion; through December; 2 to 4.

Music; Asuncion; immediately, or February, 1982, or September, 1982; 10 to 15.

Devotional speaker; Spiritual retreat for missionaries at Baptist camp; Before Nov. 25; 1 (including spouse if desired).

Boiler mechanic; Baptist hospital, Asuncion; soon as possible; 1.

Dietitian; Baptist hospital; soon as possible; 1.

Elementary or secondary teacher; Christian school, Asuncion; July 20 for one semester; 2.

Profession; Bible institute, Asuncion; late January or early March 1; 1 (including spouse if desired).

Anesthesiology instructor; Baptist hospital; March, 1982 or later; 1.

Bricklayer; Walter Insfran; Early 1982; 2 to 4.

Care of missionaries' children; Baptist camp during mission week; July; 2 to 4.

Construction; Panambireta; October, 1982, to May, 1983; 2 to 5.

Uruguay

Music; Carmelo; soon as possible; 6 to 12.

Carpentry; Artigas; soon as possible; 4 to 6.

Evangelism; Carmelo; soon as possible; 1.

Director of VBS workshops; Montevideo; November or early December; 1.

Summer VBS worker; Canelones; December or early January; 2.

Dietitian; National WMU retreat in Conchillas; late January; 1.

Leader of Sunday School workshops; Montevideo; March, 1982, or March, 1983; 1.

E. A. Autry, pastor-writer, dies at 81

Ewart A. Autry, preacher-writer, died Sept. 16 at Union County Hospital, New Albany. He was 81 and had been an ordained minister 60 years. He had served Baptist churches in Mississippi and Tennessee.

After 13 years as pastor of Central Avenue Church (now Ridgeway) in Memphis he resigned to return to his first love, rural churches of the north Mississippi area. Under Autry's leadership a number of churches, almost ready to disband, became alive, working congregations. One new church he helped start in a home was formally organized in a barn loft. At one time he served seven rural churches simultaneously, preaching Saturday afternoons and nights and three times on Sundays. Gradually these churches became strong enough to stand alone and now each is a full time church. For 33 years he was pastor of Pine Grove Church in Benton County.

He served at various periods as moderator of the Memphis Pastor's Conference, clerk of the Shelby County Baptist Association, member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and moderator of the Benton County Association. In 1964 he was chosen by Progressive Farmer Magazine and Emory University as Mississippi Rural Minister of the Year.

As a writer he was author or co-author of several books. His articles and short stories appeared in many national magazines including Reader's Digest, Progressive Farmer, Parents' Magazine, Better Homes & Gardens, Home Life, Guideposts, Christian Herald. As an outdoorsman and nature lover, he used these attributes to show others the love of God and the way of salvation.

He was buried in Pine Grove Church Cemetery facing the entrance to the church he served so long. His survivors include his wife, Lola Mae Lineberry Autry, a daughter, Mrs. Ray Crawford of Blue Mountain; three sons, Lanny of New Albany, James A. of Des Moines, IA; Ronald of Atlanta, GA; two sisters; two brothers; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials are being made to the Ewart A. Autry Ministerial Fund, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS. or to the E. A. Autry Memorial Fund at Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland, MS.



28 years perfect

MRS. GENEVIEVE D. ZACHARY, former Mississippian, was recently presented a perfect attendance pin by her pastor, Darrell Foster, First Church, Homer, La. The pin represents 28 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School, Church Training, morning and night worship services, WMU, and Wednesday night prayer meetings. According to W. C. Fields, director of Baptist Press, this is the only known record of such continuous attendance in the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. Zachary was a member, First Church, Taylorsville, Miss. for 18 months, and a member of Second Avenue Church, Laurel for 15 years.

Talk show . . .

(Continued from page 1)

talked with Garrison about unkink Christians and "no good" church members. Garrison suggested they meet for coffee and discuss the minister's problems in person. (Later the minister, now working in the oil industry, made a luncheon appointment with Garrison.)

After the first program, Garrison wrote in his church paper, "It is easy to see what kind of ministry this can become. People are grappling with personal problems, seeking someone to talk with them and respond to their needs."

During daytime hours when KOMA was broadcasting the church worship service, its signal covers 66 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. But at night the western half of the United States receives the 50,000-watt signal.

Radio and Television Commission marketing director Claude Cox urged the church to accept the station's offer of the alternate time despite its late hour, noting that KOMA's signal covers 22 states and has a listening audience of one million people.

(Mathews is an associate editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger.)

Missions directors will meet Oct. 8

Mississippi Baptist directors of missions will be meeting Oct. 8 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Featured speakers for the one-day meeting include Jack W. Gunn, newly-elected executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

The other speaker will be Wendell Belew, director of the Missions Ministries Division of the Home Mission Board. Belew will discuss the "Philosophy of Missions."

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., includes lunch, and concludes at 3 p.m.

Hinds-Madison basketball

A Hinds-Madison Associational basketball meeting is Monday Oct. 5, at 7 p.m., at Alta Woods Baptist Church. Attendance at this meeting by one representative from each church is required in order to have a team or teams in the league.

75th year

Pearl Valley Church, Copiah County, will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 25. Morning and afternoon services will be held. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

Executive Committee budgets \$106,000,000

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee promised a full report in February. Baptist Press is the denomination's news gathering agency.

In addition to the election of Fortune as vice-chairman, the committee elected its former vice-chairman, John Dunaway, as chairman. The chairmanship became vacant when Chairman J. Howard Cobble, a Georgia pastor, accepted a Kentucky pastorate. The committee secretary, Donald Gent of Indiana, resigned that position to become chairman of the committee's business and finance subcommittee. Elected to replace him was Lois Wenger of Orlando, Fla.

A five-member committee "from within and without" the Executive Committee was authorized to oversee a study of the total implications of current legal problems of ascending and descending liability of churches, state conventions, the SBC, and its agencies.

Ascending and descending liability was described as "the concept that the parent organization is legally liable for the actions of any subsidiary corporations or related institutions, even apart from any active conduct of the parent organizations."

The study committee was authorized a budget of \$35,000, with \$5,000 to come from the Executive Committee and the remainder to be requested from SBC agencies and state conventions.

The question of ascending liability emerged for Southern Baptists in a lawsuit filed by an employee against the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, also naming the SBC as the parent organization of the Memphis-based agency.

Members also voted to recommend to the 1982 SBC a change in the formula by which the Sunday School Board financially supports the SBC. The new formula, according to board President Grady C. Cothen, allows escalation of the contribution in ratio to income of the board.

Members also accepted \$150,000 from the Sunday School Board, \$100,000 of which will be allocated to the SBC operating reserve and the remainder to the operating budget.

In other action, committee members:

—Approved a \$1,832,500 Southern Baptist Convention operating budget for 1981-82.

—Authorized the lease of an automobile, including maintenance cost and operational expense, for Executive Secretary-Treasurer Harold C. Bennett;

—Heard a message from SBC President Smith;

—Heard reports from the 20 SBC agencies on accomplishments and goals as a part of the budget preparation process.

During his report Cothen gave details of the events leading to a defamation suit against the Sunday School Board. Those details were reported in an earlier issue of the Baptist Record. He also noted that a North Carolina court had ruled that the Sunday School

The best things in life move slowly. They can hardly overtake one who is in a hurry. We are making haste to ill purpose if we "haven't time" to read good books, to think quietly, to visit our friends, to comfort the sick and sorrowing, to enjoy the beautiful creations of God and man, and to lend a hand to a struggling brother.

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\$300 million office towers will net million dollars a year for CP

DALLAS (BP)—A \$300 million office building project in downtown Dallas has been announced by First Baptist Church, the W. A. Criswell Foundation and Lincoln Properties Co., a Dallas real estate development firm.

The project, which has been unfolding for several weeks, will include two 45-story office towers, one on property owned by the foundation across Ervay Street from the church buildings, and the other atop the church's eight-story parking garage completed last year.

To make way for one of the towers, three buildings will be demolished. They are the Easterwood Building, which now houses the church's high school, the YMCA building and the Texas Baptist Building.

The foundation purchased the YMCA building for \$750,000 in 1979, and in April 1981 paid \$1.7 million for the Baptist Building, which housed the

executive staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The project, according to pastor W. A. Criswell, will net enough for the church to retire the \$8 million debt on its property and enable it to give \$1 million annually to the Cooperative Program, the plan under which the Southern Baptist Convention finances its work of missions, evangelism and education.

The church's proceeds from the massive project were not revealed, but Criswell acknowledged the current \$8 million debt would be retired. The debt recently was reduced from \$10.3 million through a "liberation" offering appeal made by Criswell, who asked his members to give to ease the demand of high interest rates the church was paying.

Freedom from that interest burden, which at times reached \$1.25 million a

year, will enable the church to increase its mission giving, Criswell said.

"We are going to give \$1 million to the Cooperative Program, starting right now," Criswell told the Baptist Standard, newspaper for Texas Baptists. "We haven't been giving but about \$200,000, but we are going to give \$1 million a year to it. It's a marvelous thing."

The Baptist Building was sold to the Criswell Foundation in April 1981, when its bid of \$1.7 million was the highest of three received. At the time of the sale, the foundation announced the building would be used for "youth education purposes" and would complete a seven square block area of downtown Dallas owned or occupied by the church or the foundation.

The foundation, named for Criswell, is a separate entity, but works to sup-

port the church. Foundation directors are elected by the church.

Criswell said his dream was to use the Baptist Building to house the church's elementary school. Those plans could not be carried out when costs to renovate the YMCA building became prohibitive.

When the plans were halted, the foundation put together the deal with Lincoln Properties Co.

Criswell said he had "no idea" what was received for the Baptist Building in the deal with the development company.

The foundation and the church will retain title to the property, officials said.

The construction project will include landscaping of the entire area, including the church grounds, and construction of a building to house the church's school, Criswell said.

Secretaries' conferences to feature Fancher, Fulton

Featured speakers for four area secretaries' conferences in October will be Wilda Fancher and Virginia Fulton.

Wilda Fancher is former secretary to Marjean Patterson, executive secretary of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and is the wife of James Fancher, pastor of Coffeeville Baptist Church. Virginia Fulton is church secretary at First Baptist Church, Grenada.

The four conferences will take place in the following locations on the listed dates: Oct. 26 at First Baptist Church, Senatobia; Oct. 27 at the Washington County Association office in Greenville; Oct. 28 at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Meridian; and Oct. 29 at Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven.

Each meeting will begin with regist-

ration and coffee and donuts at 8:45 a.m., and will conclude at 3 p.m. Participants are to bring sack lunches with the host church (or association office) providing a drink and dessert.

Leon Emery, director of the Church Administration and Pastoral Ministries Department, which sponsors these meetings, will speak on time management. Fancher will speak on the total role of being a secretary, on relationships, and will lead in evaluations. Fulton will discuss filing, and making such products as bulletins and newsletters interesting.

There is no charge for these conferences. But participants are asked to make reservations for attendance. Write Leon Emery, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Music by Salleys will highlight renewal meet

ATLANTA—Special music by Bob and Jan Salley of World Hunger Relief, Inc., and messages by four Southern Baptist leaders will highlight the National Renewal Evangelism Conference Oct. 12-18 at Georgia Baptist Assembly near Toccoa.

"The Salleys are very talented musicians who present concerts and speak throughout the country to raise money for hunger relief projects being conducted around the world," said Reid Hardin, coordinator of renewal

evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Bringing messages during the week will be James Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, SBC; James Mahoney, author and lecturer from Alvin, Texas; William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board; and C. B. Hogue, vice-president of evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

The conference is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board.



Bassfield Church Mission team built a room onto the home of the pastor at First Baptist Church, Blanding, Utah.



Men from Bassfield Baptist Church work on sheetrock for Blanding, Utah, pastor's home. Pictured are Willie Jones, Henry Rich and Leon Speights.

Jeff Davis men add a room to pastor's home in Utah

Seven men from Bassfield Baptist Church and one from Oak Grove Baptist Church, both in Jeff Davis Association, went on a mission trip to Blanding, Utah.

The purpose of the trip was to construct a room onto the pastor's house at the First Baptist Church in Blanding. Roger Stacy has been the Blanding pastor for the past year.

The men built a 16 by 22 foot room, including a bedroom, full bath and a walk-in closet.

The foundation for the room had already been built. The Bassfield men

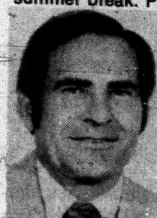
started with the foundation, building walls and partitions for the bath and closet. A hallway door was constructed to connect the room to the rest of the house. The room was built to 90 percent completion and the Blanding members have since completed the room.

Those making the trip by church van from Bassfield were Henry Rich, Leon Speights, Willie Jones, John Lamar Bullock, Frank Leggett, John Scott Hathorn, Tommy Arinder, pastor of the Bassfield church; and David Frazier, pastor at Oak Grove.



MC cheerleaders at RA Day

The Mississippi College Cheerleaders attained the Gold Championship Ribbon in sideline competition, while at cheerleader camp at Memphis State University during summer break. Pictured in a pyramid are: (top center) Shelley Martin, Vicksburg; (next row, left to right) Mary Jane Hunt, Flora; James Marshall, Brookhaven; Cindy Williams, Clinton; (bottom row) Rob Walker, Columbus, Ohio; Michelle Albritton, Jackson; Jim Lee, Biloxi; Karen Reichmann, Pensacola, Florida; Mike Keeling, Greenville; Lori Purvis, Clinton; Greg Black, Jackson; and Scott Tynes, Heidelberg (center). Inset is Coach John Williams, MC football coach. The cheerleaders and Coach Williams will be present for activities during RA Day at Mississippi College Oct. 10. The day is for Royal Ambassadors of all ages and begins at 10 a.m. that Saturday and includes attendance at the MC versus Jacksonville State in football. Sponsors of RAs may register for the program (which costs \$7 per person) by writing Brotherhood Department, Royal Ambassador Day, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone (601) 968-3934.



Williams

Needed: sewing team for Barbados

Sue Simpson, missions coordinator for Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, reports that Elba and Bill Womack, Southern Baptist missionaries to Barbados, have requested that a volunteer sewing team be sent to help them this fall.

Mrs. Simpson said that she plans to coordinate and accompany such a group, to go to Barbados Nov. 6-14. Twelve to 14 women are needed who can teach sewing in Baptist churches on Barbados. They will stay at Barbados Baptist College, and the cost will be \$750 per person for the trip.

The Womacks asked that the women bring three portable sewing machines and dress-length fabrics. Mrs. Simpson said that she needs to know by Oct. 12 names of those who wish to take part. Her telephone numbers are 842-6917 (church) and 842-1127 (home).

Media library workers will meet in Jackson

James Harrison Rose, consultant, church library department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, will be one of the conference leaders for the 1981 Annual Mississippi Baptist Media Library Workshop to be held at the First Baptist Church of Jackson on October 23-24.

The workshop will begin with registration at 11 a.m. The program begins at 1 p.m., with a banquet at 6 p.m. Rose will lead a conference for beginning media library workers on "How to Process Media."

The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, Bryant Cummings, director, provides leadership to the media library organization in Mississippi. Mrs. Millie Wood of Louisville is president of the organization.

Simpson to host CT leader lab

Simpson Association will host a Church Training leader lab Monday and Tuesday, October 5 and 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Corinth Church.

Leaders for the conference will include: Bill Watson, Ridgecrest, Jackson, general officers; Athens McNeil, Griffith Street Church, Moss Point, adults; Carlton McNeer, Oak Grove, Mendenhall, youth; Mrs. Dale Simon, Braxton, children; Mrs. Marjorie Blackwell, Magee, preschool. Mrs. Pat Calder is the association's Church Training director.

Janie Boykin to direct music for BYW retreat

The annual Baptist Young Women Retreat, October 9-10, at Camp Garaywa, will bring together BYW from all over Mississippi...



Boykin

world missions. Glenna (Mrs. Stanley) Stamps, foreign missionary to Nicaragua, will share of the life as a missionary during a civil war.

Nan (Mrs. Robert) Sugg, foreign missionary to Taiwan, sharing as a new missionary how the Lord sent her

as a missionary, wife and mother.

Special Encounter Groups will give BYW the opportunities of getting to know Marjorie (Mrs. Earl) Kelly, Glenna Stamps and Nan Sugg, in a small setting of questions and answers on Saturday morning.

The retreat will also offer music, fun and fellowship as more than 125 young women gather Friday evening for this weekend meeting.

Janie Boykin, former missionary journeyman to Liberia, will be responsible for the music and theme interpretation during each of the three sessions.

BYW organizations will share on the program with the prayer calendar and testimonies.

The weekend cost is \$13. This includes meals, room, insurance and programming. Deadline for registration is Monday, October 5, and is not refundable after this date. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. in the small dining room at Garaywa.

The evening program begins at 7:30 p.m. and the retreat will conclude Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Each BYW should bring sheets (single bed), or sleeping bag, pillow case, Contempo, Bible and a notebook. Pillows and blankets are furnished by Camp Garaywa.

For more information write or telephone, Marilyn Hopkins, WMU Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms. 39205, telephone 968-3923. Information needed with registration: church name; number attending; amount enclosed; person sending reservation with address and telephone number (office and home).

Thirty-five churches were represented at the retreat last year.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

The Cooperative Program . . . Mainstream of support

Sunday by Sunday Southern Baptists are giving attention to the Cooperative Program as they place their tithes and offerings in the collection plates of their churches. The Cooperative Program is the lifeline that keeps alive everything that Southern Baptists are attempting to do.

The Cooperative Program is at work in the sphere of the state convention as it sends workers out from the hub into every area of the state to help churches to be better able to witness in their communities. It is at work throughout the Southern Baptist Convention as it sends missionaries into every area of the nation and also sup-

ports a missions endeavor that completely encircles the globe. Then it also provides the necessities for a host of missions support people who are at work to make it possible for those nationwide and worldwide efforts to continue.

The Cooperative Program is at work in education, in healing, in ethical concerns, and in the information that keeps those endeavors at the focus of our attention.

Teaching, healing, witnessing—that is the Cooperative Program.

October is Cooperative Program Month and is the time that Southern Baptists note especially the ministry of this marvelous concept. Many

people contribute thousands of dollars through their church financial channels without ever knowing what the Cooperative Program is and how broad its ministry is. October is the time that attention can be focused on the Cooperative Program, and those who are not aware of its importance can be able to better understand it.

It is vital. We cannot function as we do without it.

The Cooperative Program was established originally to make possible a life-giving supply line for all efforts supported by Southern Baptists without having a multiplication of fund raising efforts as each entity would seek to engender its own support. It

has worked very well in this respect for 56 years.

Through the years Southern Baptists have gradually added additional offerings for special interests of one kind or another. These offerings all have had the blessings of Southern Baptists and all have filled highly important needs. They must continue also, or our work will be severely crippled.

With these offerings increasing, however, let us not forget the mainstream of support of Southern Baptist efforts. Let's not forget the Cooperative Program. Without it we would not need the others.



Letters to the Editor

How long for liquor?

Editor:

After reading your editorial "An emotional matter . . . How long will we wait?" I agree that we are all responsible for allowing liquor to be legal in our state. As you stated, "we have somehow failed to do enough in an effort to get rid of it."

Liquor today is taken for granted and we do nothing, yet daily read of the violent traffic deaths on the highways, unsafe street, broken homes, child abuse, etc. We dare not shrug off known facts about the devastation alcohol is causing.

Knowing that alcohol strikes directly at the vital brain centers of reason, willpower, and judgment, where are those who will stand with you against this offense?

Mrs. Juarez Johnson
Jackson

Voting rights act

Editor:

I read your editorial on the Voting Rights Act, and I must say I share your gut-level resentment toward a law which singles out the South for punishment. On the other hand, the enclosed editorial from New Orleans showed me that many northern areas come under this law, too. I don't know enough about it to understand all the effects of the law, but it does seem a law of our nation should be in effect in all of our nation. On the other hand, I doubt that it is worthwhile to abolish a law which is doing some good simply to

soothe our Southern pride.

Bob Rogers
Woodville

You are right, of course. As it now stands, however, the law covers all of Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. It covers counties or cities in Connecticut, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming. To me, that is a strange assortment, almost as if the areas were chosen arbitrarily. It would seem to say that all of Mississippi is prone to violate the voting rights of its citizens while such violations are likely to be only in isolated areas in other Southern states or even non-existent. That sort of comparison doesn't seem to be valid to me. I surely stand for the right of every citizen to vote, but I can't believe that violations are not to be found elsewhere is as great a number as once might have been the case in Mississippi. Therefore, I believe that if we are to have such an act, it should apply nationwide. The only reason seen so far for not applying it nationwide is that it could not be enforced effectively over such a broad area. If that is the case, then I feel the act should be allowed to lapse. I do not feel that there should be a federal law in only parts of the nation simply because it could not be enforced throughout the nation.

Discussion on extending the act was to have begun in the U. S. House of Representatives this week.—Editor.

World hunger . . .

Baptists beginning to awaken

May we call attention to world hunger? Actually, there should be no reason to have to point out that hunger exists in areas around the world. Hungry people can be found anywhere one cares to look.

It very well could be the case that few Southern Baptists are well acquainted with hunger. Probably, most of those who are acquainted with it have found it in the lives of others rather than in their own. It could be that hungry people would not feel especially welcome in many Southern

Baptist churches. We just don't know how to deal with it.

People are hungry all over the world, nevertheless. Surely there is something we can do. And we are beginning to do it.

Sunday, Oct. 11, is world hunger day. This has become an annual observance; and with its continued emphasis, Southern Baptists gradually have begun to awake to the plight of hungry people where ever they may be. For the most part we think of those who are suffering from hunger in India

and in portions of Africa. Surely these are the areas where hunger has taken on a more desperate form and more is required to deal with it. We have begun to deal with it in terms of seeking to eradicate the causes, but much remains to be done.

On world hunger day let us remember these less fortunate ones and give that they might be comforted. It is a sad outlook when families cannot get enough food to feed their young ones.

There are hungry people in the United States in spite of our efforts to take

care of them through governmental channels. There are people right here in Mississippi who are not able to eat as well as would be considered to be normal.

Hunger funds must be dispensed carefully. Those who are responsible for their distribution must be careful to find the proper recipients. Most of us who would give for their aid, however, are not charged with finding those who need the aid. Our only avenue of response is to give. Let's do so generously.

Members hear proposal for new Executive Committee building

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Detailed planning for a \$6.5 million office building to house the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee was authorized during the committee's September meeting.

After hearing a proposal by William A. Fortune, a Knoxville, Tenn., builder and vice chairman of the committee, members approved, without opposing vote, asked for additional plans for the structure, which, if approved, would replace the current SBC Building at 460 James Robertson Parkway.

In making the presentation for the SBC Building Long-Range Study Committee, Fortune told the Executive Committee the current building has "served the SBC well for 18 or 20 years, but, like people, it gets old and can no longer serve the needs for which it was created."

After a year and a half of study—which included questionnaires to the five SBC agencies which share the current 44,000-square-foot building—Fortune said it was determined a new building was needed which should contain at least twice as much floor space, and would cost in the range of \$6 to \$7 million.

"I wondered how the SBC could get such a building in our lifetime," he said, adding that construction costs currently are rising one percent per month, or about \$65,000, on a \$6.5 million building.

"In April or May (of 1981) I came on the idea where our company would design and build and then lease the building to the SBC," he said.

Fortune, president of Rentenbach Engineering Co., of Knoxville, told members of plans to finance the building with Industrial Revenue Bonds, lease it to the Executive Committee

for 20 years at an estimated \$12 per square foot annually, and then, at the end of the period, sell it to the SBC for \$1.

In order to allow such a transaction with Fortune, the Executive Committee approved an allowable exception to the SBC Business and Financial Plan, which says agencies "shall refrain from entering any business transaction with a trustee or employee" as "normal operating procedure."

The bylaws allow exceptions "at the discretion of the board of trustees in any case wherein it appears that a commodity or service is unavailable on a more favorable basis from any other source, or a commodity or service, at the discretion of the board, is found to be in the best interest of the agency."

Members, however, questioned Fortune about the possibility of conflict of interest.

In response, Fortune said: "The only thing our firm would get would be the tax shelter. Translated, that means we can depreciate the building and use it as a tax shelter. Our accountants say that means we can use \$1.5 to \$1.6 million for around 10 years."

He added current rental in Nashville is \$14 a square foot "bare floor," and \$16 to \$18 finished, and he said he believes he can provide finished space for about \$10 to \$12 per square foot.

"If somebody can give you a better deal, I'll get on his bandwagon. I am only interested in serving the Lord the best way I can," Fortune said.

The new building would be built on a

tract adjacent to the Sunday School Board complex at Ninth Avenue North and Commerce Streets in downtown Nashville.

Fortune presented preliminary plans, prepared by Earl Swenson Associates Inc., a Nashville architectural firm, which calls for two levels of parking, three floors of meeting rooms and four floors of office space.

Fortune said he believes the design "represents the space we will need to take us into the 21st century."

Comparing the buildings, he said the current structure, which cost \$1.2 million when it was built in 1961, has 44,649 square feet of floor space and 60 parking spaces. The proposed building would have 81,756 square feet of floor space and 115 parking spaces.

Fortune said the current structure was built at a time when the SBC Building housed 40 employees, and the 212-seat auditorium was sufficient. Now, 80 persons work in the SBC Building and participants overflow into the halls for Executive Committee meetings.

Fortune estimated the current building is worth "around \$1.5 million" on "today's real estate market."

Currently, the building is paid for and costs about \$6 to \$8 per square foot per year for maintenance and utilities.

Housed in the building are the Executive Committee, the Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Stewardship Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation and the Seminary External Education Division.

Book Reviews

DAILY GUIDE TOWARD FITNESS, A Spiritual Approach to Physical Fitness by E. Eugene and Elaine W. Greer (Broadman, paper, 215 pp.) This is not just a book to be read and forgotten, or even shelved for reference. It is a workbook, to be used. Fifty-two charts—one for each week of a year—provide places to keep records of weight, exercise control, and nutrition control. Scripture meditations are suggested, one for the beginning of each day and a prayer thought for each week to "enable you to keep the Bible in the forefront of your mind while you are engaged in increasing your physical fitness." Suggestions for exercising, nutritious recipes, and inspirational comments accompanying the charts. The authors live in Dallas, Texas. Elaine is a homemaker and Eugene is on the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A TIME TO GROW by Gladis & Gordon DePree (Zondervan, paper, \$3.95) Ninety one-page devotionals offer a daily invitation to spiritual nourishment. Attractive illustrations in black and white are the drawings of Martha Bentley. The opening page explains the title: "This is the season for which

all other seasons pass. It is the time of the full green leaf, the red tomato, the ripe soft corn, the fruit in clusters. It is the season of now. No more hiding in the seed nor shy peeping buds; the sun is on us, and what we would become has found its moment. This is the season . . . this is a time to grow."

AFFECTIONATELY, DAD, edited by Roger M. Crook (Broadman, 1980, 142 pp.) These are letters that were addressed to Vernon Crook, written to him by his parents between the years of 1922 and 1938. Vernon inherited Marfan Syndrome from his father and was thus severely handicapped visually. When Vernon was 13, his mother took him to the North Carolina State School for the Blind at Raleigh, NC. During the years he was there and then at University of North Carolina and working at Chapel Hill his mother and his father Will wrote him every week. Vernon kept all the letters. The mother's were chatty, telling of everyday events. The father's were philosophic or reflective, often humorous. Presented here, they recall the life of the middle-class family in the south in the 20s and 30s, and they reveal the natural, unaffected relig-

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Eupora Eagle

Ah, to be 16 . . . and to have the joie de vivre of Marsha Herrod.

When I ate lunch at her house September 11, she told me she needed to get back to school by 2. Eupora was to play Philadelphia that night and Marsha, a junior, would be flying high during half-time as the Eagle. Her sister Carol, an eighth grader, would be playing trumpet in the band.

"Some day I'm going to be the editor of Accent," she came home from Los Angeles telling her mother and dad, Etoile and James C. As a member of the National Acteens Panel, she was a page at the SBC meet.

I wouldn't be surprised some day to hear that the editor of Accent is a dark-haired, brown-eyed beauty from Eupora, Miss. Marsha has a talent for creative writing; she likes to read; she likes to study English—but "definitely not chemistry." Her grades, I hear, are always at the top.

Catchy phrases she clips from magazines or from the comics. One of these she might pin to a teddy bear on her antique wooden bed. Another she might attach to the photograph of a friend. Mottoes she cross-stitches for pillows or for framing. Bible verses she writes on construction paper to tape to the wall of her room. "I look for verses that apply to my life," she said. "And she changes them often," her mother added.

I saw that Marsha had left her mark

by the bathroom mirror, using I Peter 3:3-4 TLB: "Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on jewelry, or beautiful clothes, or hair arrangement. Be beautiful inside, in your hearts, with the lasting charm of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God."

The first Bible verse she remembers memorizing was Proverbs 17:17—for a church program, while she was in Mission Friends—"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Her mother recalls, "She said it loud and clear!" Mrs. Herrod has always been active in WMU work too.

While on the National Acteens Panel this year Marsha has spoken at the state WMU convention and at several associational Acteen meetings, and she has other engagements coming—in Starkville at a district WMU meeting and in Choctaw County at a Father-Daughter banquet.

Her panel duties include writing a series of articles for Accent. One of the articles will tell about her mission action project, being a Candystriper at a Eupora nursing home. "I love it!" she declared. Another of her articles will recount her experiences in Los Angeles. Her church, First, Eupora, sent her as an official messenger to the SBC. "I was glad I could vote for Mrs. Gregory as first vice-president," she said, "I think it's good for the WMU to

be represented among the SBC officers."

Marsha made a profession of faith in Christ on May 7, 1973, the day before her eighth birthday. She sings in youth choir, got a trophy this year for having been in Bible drill competition for four years, will be a Service-Aide in Acteens next year (her Acteens leader is Diane Taylor and pastor is W. S. Stewart).

"I like to be with my friends and with all kinds of people," she said. She plays basketball ("but I have a low opinion of myself as a player"), is on Student Council, is vice-president (and president-elect) of Future Teachers of America, member of the Debate Club, vice-president of the Beta Club, and member of the Library Club (she works in the school library).

When I asked if she could express in words what Jesus means to her, she said, "Little things add up and get bigger and bigger. Without Jesus to help me, I think they would just explode."

Her mother enlarged on this: "She could not cope with the daily things that come up, without Jesus. The different things that confront teen-agers, problems they face, look like mountains now, though later they may look like small hills."

Marsha's face, above her white blouse and pink overalls glowed with joyous vitality: "I am aware that God is with me all the time, in little things like being nice to somebody, not just in big life crises. If I am depressed, I know God will help me through my trials. And I feel like I need to live my life in a way that will show my friends who are not Christians what Jesus means to me."

MSU BSU will celebrate birthday

The Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University will have a 56th birthday celebration on Homecoming Day, October 17.

There will be a free BSU Alumni luncheon and meeting at 11 a.m. At 5:30 p.m. the birthday celebration will take place.

A buffet meal followed by a brief program and celebration featuring former MSU-BSU Directors Frank Horton and Jerry Merriman will highlight the day's activities.



Marsha's room is usually decorated with Bible verses (on wall behind her). In one corner is her collection of international dolls (at right.)

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Just for the Record



CARTERVILLE CHURCH, PETAL, Miss. broke ground Sept. 13 for a new education building. The facility will include a new preschool area, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and various other support space. As the third phase of a building program launched in 1978, this will add over 10,000 square feet to the church plant. Time of construction is six months with the completion expected in March, 1982.

"Over the years the church has seen steady growth, and has a membership now of over 825 members," said Leland Hogan, pastor. A new sanctuary was erected in 1972. It became inadequate to accommodate the morning worship service so in June of 1980 the church began a second morning service at 8:30. Also in 1980, a third full-time staff member was added. Above, trustees break ground. The pastor is at far left.



THE GAS OF CLEARY CHURCH, FLORENCE, and their mothers were recently honored at a Mother/Daughter Banquet. One of the special features of the evening was the presentation of Missions Adventures awards to 13 of the girls. Those receiving awards were: Front row: Jackye Munn, Maria Alexander, Nicole Ross and Suzanne Mace. Back row: Shellie Summers, Kelly Matthews, Libby Garrett, Christy Rucker, Rebecca Davis, Tanya Thornton, Kristy Shelton, Shannon Thornton, and Kellie Summers.

Homecomings

Providence Church, Hattiesburg, will have homecoming day Oct. 4. During the morning worship service, previous ministers of music at Providence will be featured. Dinner will be served on the grounds. Larry Gafford is the pastor.

Rocky Point Church, Leake County, will have homecoming Oct. 4, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12, and an afternoon program will begin at 1. A. A. Ward will be visiting preacher. David Wilkinson is pastor.

Moselle Memorial Church (Jones) will observe homecoming day Oct. 4. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 and morning worship at 11. A former pastor, H. L. Davis, will bring the message. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. Music will be presented at 1:30 p.m. The pastor is Garland Eaves.

Antioch (Neshoba) will have homecoming Oct. 4. Activities will include Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; then lunch. Danny Lanier is pastor.

Nashville—Cutting energy expenses for church facilities is the major topic of an "Energy and Church Buildings" seminar at the Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center Nov. 16-19. To register, a \$45 fee for each participant should be sent to Church Program Training Center, Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

HMB grants aid to 73

Directors of the Home Mission Board approved pastoral aid for 73 persons during their September meeting in Atlanta. Mississippians named to receive church pastoral assistance were W. Thomas and Rebecca Buchanan of Horn Lake, Miss.; Rhett and Elaine Durfee of Horn Lake, Miss.; and Billy and June McClellan of Louise, Miss.

Revival Dates

Southside Church, Greenville, Oct. 4-10; services at noon and 7:30 p.m.; Ed Jennings, pastor of the First Church, Florence, Tex., evangelist; Norman Huggins, music leader of First Church, Ita Bena, leading the music; John Rudd, pastor.

Calvary Church, Forest (Pea Ridge), Oct. 4-9; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays at 7 p.m.; James McNally, Bentley, La., evangelist; Kay Henry, director of music; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

Walker Hill Mission (Rankin County on Cato Road), Oct. 1-4; at 7:30 p.m. Thurs-Sat.; at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday; J. C. Shirley, preaching; Chris Nash, directing the music; Kent Shirley, pastor.

First, Yazoo City, Oct. 4-8; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week-days at 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Perry R. Sanders, pastor; First, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Luther Burney, minister of music; First, Lafayette, La., musician; James F. Yates, pastor.

New Zion, Braxton, Oct. 4-8; Sonny Adkins, evangelist from New Hebron, preaching, Gene Rester, minister of music, Raymond Road, Jackson, in charge of music; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with dinner on the ground; services during week at 7:30 p.m.; Don Nerren, pastor.

Main Street, Hattiesburg, Oct. 4-9; Strength for Living Crusade; Ed and Betty Stalenecker, guest evangelists; John E. Barnes, Jr., pastor; noonday luncheons; women's seminar; pizza supper for all youth; banana split fellowship for children; puppet show; sacred music concert; separate service for youth.

Scotland Church, Winona, Oct. 4-11; Harry C. Scarborough, pastor, First Church, Lockhart, S. C., evangelist; evangelistic singing featured in each service; James S. Allen, pastor.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton: Oct. 4-8; Gene Williams, evangelist; Frank Stovall, musician; Kermit D. McGregor, pastor.

Peoples Church, Ripley, Oct. 4-9; Gregg Thomas, pastor, speaker; Malcolm Lindsay, music director; night services; Oct. 4, "Back to Church Sunday, a day to thank God for the renovation of the fellowship building, and additions of four Sunday School rooms, two restrooms, and a kitchen"; fellowship dinner Oct. 4.

Trinity Church, Laurel, Oct. 4-8; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday at 7:30 p.m.; Gene Fant, pastor of Ivy Memorial Church, Hampton, Va., evangelist; Jim Young of Liberty Church, Liberty, Miss., music evangelist; Joel C. Murphy, interim pastor.

Registration for seminary classes to be Oct. 6

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary will be registering for Fall Classes, Tuesday Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 3160 Lynch St. in Jackson, Mississippi.

For additional information on courses and class schedules, please visit or phone 944-1741.

Thursday, October 1, 1981

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Morrison Heights dedicates center

The new Christian Life Center of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, was dedicated at 1:30 p.m., Sept. 20. J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison director of missions, was guest speaker. A churchwide potluck dinner preceded the service, and an open house followed it. The \$1.35 million facility includes a gymnasium, physical fitness room, game room, choir rehearsal room, music library, craft room, ceramics shop, activities office, and seven Sunday School rooms. Construction began in June 1980 and was completed in August, 1981.



Jan Cossitt, director of activities, Morrison Heights, described opportunities for service that the Christian Life Center will offer. She was assisted in the presentation by Bill Barnes, minister of music, center, and Richard Collum, minister of education. Dot Tullios, seated at right, director of the child development center, led in the benediction. Others on program included Lamar Nail, Building Committee chairman; Kermit D. McGregor, pastor; L. Graham Smith, associate pastor; Glen Holmes, chairman of the Finance sub-committee. The Sanctuary Choir presented special music under direction of Bill Barnes.

Staff Changes

Donnie Gholston has resigned as music director of West End Church, West Point.

Henry Floyd, who has been serving as interim pastor at Border Springs (Lowndes), has accepted a call to become pastor there.

Phillip Holley has resigned the pastorate of Springville (Pontotoc County) in order to attend school.

Eudene Tutor, who has been serving as interim pastor of Turnpike Church, Pontotoc County, has been called as pastor there.

Noah Palmer, who had resigned at Crystal Ridge (Winston), has reconsidered and is staying as pastor.

Nathan Simmons, a former member of West Chapel (Winston), has accepted a call to the pastorate of Cedar City Church, Cedar City, Utah.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

The school year begins

Teachers, administrators and staff from the Clinton school system were recently invited to join staff and residents of the India Nunnery Campus for an evening set aside to "get acquainted." Believing that the cultivation of the parent/teacher relationship and communication between the same can be of tremendous worth in aiding a child's educational progress, this evening is designed to introduce houseparents and Village staff to the teachers who will be most involved with Village children and young people during this school year. The number of

school personnel attending the reception and later visiting their students in cottages indicated the high level of interest in maximizing this educational effort. We are deeply appreciative of the interest, the efforts, and the spirit of cooperation on the part of these teachers as well as others throughout Mississippi who are working with us.

Thank you...



The Village Mission Field

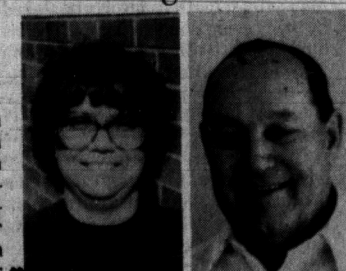
During the week of September 12 through September 20, Village staff members participated in a World Missions Conference in Lincoln and Copiah Associations. With missionary participants from fields all over the world, The Village's ministry was presented during the time of mission emphasis. We are thankful for the opportunity to present the message of our work in any situation; we are most appreciative of the opportunity to emphasize that we are indeed a viable and vital mission field serving the needs of Mississippi children and families whose lives and futures are the very particular interest of our various churches and associations. Rev. Eugene Roberts is the Director of Missions for Copiah and Lincoln County Associations and coordinated this conference. We are grateful to him and the churches of Copiah and Lincoln Associations who worked to make this time such a productive, informative and inspirational mission endeavor.

School Elections

School elections at W. P. Daniel High School in New Albany have resulted in the election of eleventh graders Sean Milner and Marilyn Eldridge to the office of vice-president of their respective homerooms. Sean is also manager of the football team, and Marilyn is a newly-selected member of the Anchor Club. Both of these outstanding young people have recently moved to The New Albany Group Home from The India Nunnery Campus.

for helping The Village go "back to school" with your gifts of money, school supplies, and clothing. We are thankful!

Presenting our Staff:



Janie Hunt
Housemother
India Nunnery
Campus

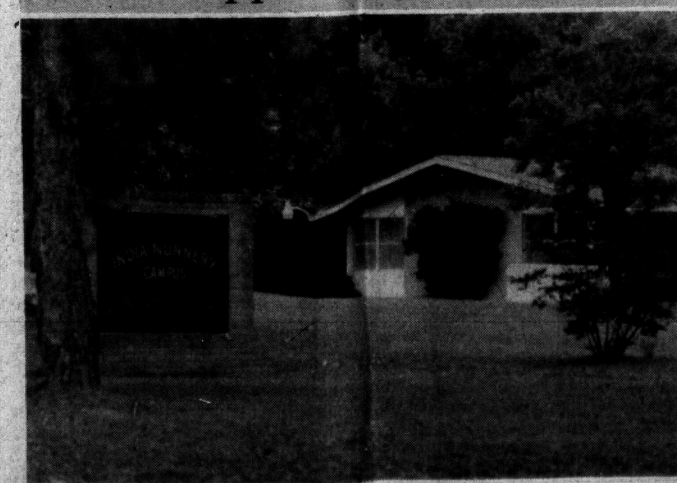
Charles Jackson
Housefather
New Albany
Group Home

Youth missions...

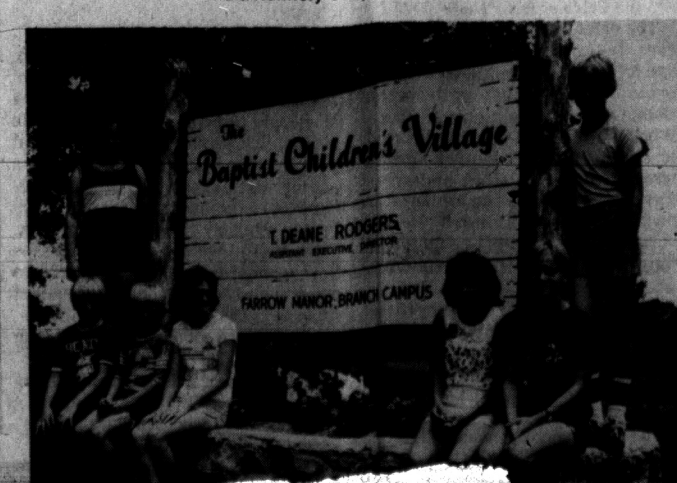


...became a special week of Bible study, puppet plays, camp-outs, and activities under the direction of Steve Davis and young people from First Baptist Church, Lucedale. Johnny Walker, pastor of First Baptist, Lucedale, also traveled and worked with the group as they led in a special week of mission work on The India Nunnery Campus.

Mississippi's largest family



India Nunnery Campus near Jackson.



Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County.

The Season

Early inquiries, schedule requests, and invitations are indications to Village Staff that the Christmas Holiday Season will be here soon.

As has been the custom of many years Village residents will spend the week prior to Christmas through the week following Christmas Day as guests in private Mississippi homes with special host families.

Any questions or requests with regard to being a host family should be addressed to Claire Nowlin, Director of Social Services. Mrs. Nowlin also advises that the Social Services Department will be available to help individuals wishing to shop for or with a child.

Other facets of the holiday season at The Village include special programs and Christmas parties. Bob Catlett or Ruth Glaze, both of The Village Staff, will work with groups or individuals interested in being a part of the Christmas Season in either of these ways.

Additionally, we would remind Village friends that contributions made to our Holiday Fund are used to both provide Christmas gifts for the children and to help underwrite the food and milk budget for the year.

We have different faces in different places, but we are all a part of "Mississippi's Largest Family"...



New Albany Group Home.



Dickerson Place near Brookhaven.

Bible Book Series

The King's birth and infancy

By Lewis Sewell, pastor
First, Oxford
Matthew 1:1-2:23

This lesson points to the truth that Jesus' birth and infancy fulfilled Old Testament prophecy regarding his messiahship.

I. The Ancestry of the King (1:1-17). Genealogy has become important in our society. We want to know our "roots." For the Jew genealogy was more than significant; it was everything. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus' genealogy is given to establish his connection with the promise of God to Israel that God would send to His people an anointed King. The promise began with Abraham (Gen. 12) and included the fact that David's descendant would rule over His people (2 Sam. 7:12-16). "The deportation to Babylon" is mentioned not out of general historical interest but because it marked a sad new stage in God's dealing with Israel. From the deportation to the coming of Jesus, there was no son of David ruling over Israel.

As noted in v. 17 the genealogy is divided in a 14-14-14 pattern. This makes the importance of Abraham, David, the captivity, and Jesus stand out. Jesus is not only the purveyor of the blessing of Abraham, He is also the Davidic Messiah.

An interesting note of the birth-rite of Jesus is the reference to four Old Testament women—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. They are mentioned to imply that just as these women in unexpected ways had a place in the Messianic genealogy, so Mary by God's unusual working became the mother of the Christ.

II. Joseph's Concern and God's Response (1:18-25).

Joseph is called Mary's husband (v. 19, 25) because betrothal was legally binding. Before the marriage Mary discovered she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph thought she had violated the marriage tie by sinful relations with another man. He determined he had to divorce Mary but did not want to cause her hurt or public disgrace. Remember they were only betrothed at this time.

God's response to Joseph's decision came through God's messenger, an angel. The response was instruction to Joseph to take Mary home with him, which meant marriage. The Lord also revealed that Mary had not sinned.

When Joseph took Mary home (v. 25), he had no marriage relations with

her until after Jesus was born. The implication is that such relations were later established and children were born to Joseph and Mary.

III. Wise Men Visit the King (2:1-12). The "wise men" or Magi were not crafty magicians, as the word implies in other New Testament passages, but teachable and wise men from the East (perhaps Persia). They were likely astrologers since they "saw his star" (v. 2). They are mentioned in the account to point Gentile readers of the Gospel to the right attitude to Christ. Even the non-Jewish world recognized the promise of a coming Messiah. The traditional number of three Magi is not mentioned in the text. This number is deduced from the three gifts mentioned in v. 11.

When the "wise men" inquired in Jerusalem for information about the location of the new born Messiah, the king was angry about a potential rival. He called the entire Sanhedrin together to learn of the birth place of the promised Messiah. The religious leaders knew the prophecy of Micah 5:2. Bethlehem was to be the birth place of the Messiah.

Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Jesus. They lived in Nazareth. However, Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to enroll for a census. Thus, they provided opportunity for the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

It is interesting to note that the Gentile wise men were aware of the Messiah's coming, while the religious leaders of Judea with their limited understanding failed to recognize Him though they had the heritage and writings of Israel. Perhaps this is an implication of Matthew's attitude of condemnation towards the official instructors of the Jewish nation.

"In the days of Herod the king" (v. 1) is the only evidence in this Gospel for dating the birth of Jesus. This Herod, later known as Herod the Great, was an Idumean, who through his friendship with Marcus Antonius, was given the title "king of the Jews" in B.C. 40, though remaining subject to Rome. He died in B.C. 4 when his son Archelaus, who inherited the cruel nature of his father, succeeded him. It would appear Jesus was born in the closing months of Herod the Great's reign and that He returned from Egypt soon after his death.

The three gifts (v. 11) have become

symbols of Christian truth. Gold for the humanity of Jesus, myrrh for the death of Jesus and incense for the divinity of Jesus is a symbolism that dates to Epiphanius. Others have seen the symbolism as gold because Jesus is a king, incense because Jesus is God and myrrh because Jesus is mortal. They were simply costly gifts, worthy of the King to whom they were brought.

IV. Escape to Egypt (2:13-18).

God protected his Son. When Herod plotted against Jesus, God through an angel, instructed Joseph to flee to Egypt. The time spent in Egypt and the return from Egypt is fulfillment of the prophecy of Hosea 11:1.

V. The Return to Nazareth (2:19-23).

After Herod died Joseph returned with his family to Nazareth. Little is known of the infancy and childhood of Jesus. The clearest fact of this period of the earthly life of Jesus is the obvious divine protection of Jesus and His family. God always watches over His own to the fulfillment of his purposes.

Lucedale names pastor emeritus

First Church, Lucedale, has extended a call to Fred Moseley, former pastor there from 1946 to 1949 and interim pastor in 1977, as pastor emeritus.



Moseley will give leadership in a senior adult ministry and in the area of mission awareness, as he has been involved first-hand in mission efforts. His most recent responsibility took him in March of this year to Iowa where he has served as short-term missionary and coordinator of Project 55, a Bold Mission Project to begin 55 new Baptist churches/works in the states of Iowa and Missouri. Reports indicate that this goal has been exceeded.

After graduating from Mississippi College, Moseley received his seminary training at New Orleans Seminary. He has served the Home Mission Board, SBC, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and was director of the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary for the past six years.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ethel Louise Graham, 95, of 6009 Fifth St., Meridian, were held Sept. 17 in Webb Funeral Home Chapel. Marcus D. Finch and J. R. Davis officiated.

Mrs. Graham, who died Sept. 14 was a charter member of Oakland Heights Baptist Church, Meridian, where she had served as youth leader and Sunday School teacher. She had served two terms as president and two terms as secretary of the Lauderdale County WMU. The first Business Woman's Circle was organized under her leadership and she was one of a committee of three who wrote the history of Lauderdale County WMU, 1909 to 1978.

Survivors include five daughters, Mrs. Alva Graham Blakeley and Mrs. Mary Graham Martin, both of Meridian, Mrs. Frank (Toby) Maher, Oystka, Mrs. Joyce Graham Stewart, Magnolia, and Mrs. Rebecca Graham Austin, Downingtown, Pa.; a son, Clark V. Graham, Jackson; two sisters, seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Cliff Temple Church (Adams-Natchez) recently ordained Jerry S. Brewer and Gene Bobo as deacons. Richard Pass, Adams Association missionary, brought the message. E. L. Bobo of Atlanta, Texas, Gene Bobo's father, led the benediction. W. G. Dowdy is pastor.

Kathryn Willingham Kizer of Birmingham, Ala., has been named editor of Start magazine by Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. Start is WMU's quarterly publication for leaders of Mission Friends, the missions organization for preschool-age children. Kizer, a native of Greenville, S.C., is a graduate of Winthrop College in Rock Hill. She has done graduate work at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and at Union Theological Seminary in New York, N.Y. Kizer is married to Lawton F. Kizer Jr., minister of education and administration at Ruhama Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Jim McIntosh was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by Leaf River Church, Pineville, Smith Association.

He is a graduate of Jones County Junior College and Mississippi College, and is working toward a master of divinity degree at New Orleans Seminary.

If you want to know the value of money, try and borrow some.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson will ordain Ron Chapman and Will Sanford as deacons on Oct. 4. James E. Scirrat is pastor.

The Society of Distinguished American High School Students has announced that three students from Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson, are to be included in its membership for 1981. The Society accepts only students nominated by their sponsors. To be nominated, students must excel in academics, extracurricular, or civic activities. Students at Griffith awarded this honor are: Faye Anne Berry, Ricky Alan Steen, and David Michael Weaver. The students' sponsor, Gary A. Knapp, Griffith pastor, received a National Appreciation Award from the Society for "being dedicated to the encouragement and assistance of students."

Worry cannot change the past, but it can surely ruin the present.

John McMullen, a former Mississippian, is celebrating 25 years in the ministry. He is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Black Rock, Ark., where he has been for almost five years.

McMullen was ordained by East Heights Baptist Church, Tupelo, Aug. 12, 1956, when he had just begun his college education at Clarke. Since then, he has received two master's degrees and completed all the work, except the dissertation, for the D.Ed. degree at Mississippi State University.

He has served churches in Mississippi, California, and Arkansas. His first revival was in a "brush arbor" at Tupelo, his home town. McMullen is married to the former Bea Harmon, and they have four children.

Devotional

The glory of God

By Graham Hales, Hattiesburg
Chaplain, Forrest General Hospital
Psalms 19:1

It hurt just to watch her. Severely crippled, the student slowly made her way along the campus sidewalk below my office window. I wondered if an accident or a birth defect had caused her this handicap to bear. Does she ever know joy? Can happiness break through her pain and hardship? I wonder if she knows about God? These and other thoughts filled my mind as I watched from three floors up. She paused just below my window. Her face broke into a wide grin as she glanced into a tree under which she stood. I followed her gaze and saw it also. A mother bird was feeding her babies. They had been there for days, but I had not seen them. In my health, I had focused on tragedy. In her severely limited condition, this student had focused on the beauty of the earth which shows so frequently the handiwork of God.

The Heavens Declare the Glory
Life so often seems to throw us curves. Well-laid plans are stopped by the unexpected. A serious accident, financial reverse, family tragedy or other similar event disturbs our hopes and dreams. What do we do at such times? Is there a difference in the way we react from the way of reacting exhibited by those who know not God? Why do some believers seem able to find adequate strength in times of crisis and other believers do not? Of course, there are several reasons. My belief is that the main one is this—those who focus on the tragedy before them do not do well; those who look toward the heavens and find anew their faith in God discover his glory is an abundant source of strength.

The Earth Shows His Handiwork
It also seems to be true that those believers who are continually aware of the glory of God also sense God's presence all around them in nature and daily events. This is true of prayer. If we stay in contact with God through frequent prayer in the everyday, there is no sense of desperation in the terrible times.

One astronaut said when asked if he prayed a lot during the time his space capsule was spinning out of control, "No, because I was prayed up." When we cultivate the sense of God's presence in the "little things" of God's creation as well as in the grandeur of the heavens, God fills us with the strength and courage to make it through all the times of life. I believe it was this attitude that was used of God to inspire David to write this 19th Psalm to the honor of God whom he acknowledged as "O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Psm. 19:4).

Life and Work Lesson

God cares for oppressed people

By Joel E. Haire, pastor
First Church, Crystal Springs
Exodus 1:7-14; 2:1-3, 11-12, 23-25

People aren't usually oppressed because they have chosen this lifestyle. Neither are they oppressed because they deserve it more than others. They do not always become oppressed people because they bring it on themselves.

Oppression may come because people are in the wrong place or circumstances. It may be brought about by the selfishness and inhumanity of others. Oppressive practices may be harbored by a community until they become accepted ways of life. A nation may find itself an oppressor. Egypt certainly did. Pharaoh saw oppression of God's people as a way to build his cities and enrich his people. He disregarded human beings and saw them as things to be used for his own benefit.

While the oppressor may feel he is being benefited, oppression always hurts the oppressed. It is not God's way. It is wrong in God's sight.

When the children of Israel were an oppressed people God dealt with them and with their oppressors. He delivered the children of Israel, but he brought judgment upon the Egyptians.

Through all the experiences of Israel in bondage and deliverance one thing is certain, God really cares.

I. God Cares When the Evidence of His Care is Hard to See (1:7-14)

Certain circumstances brought the children of Israel into a special need for God's care. They had settled in the land of Goshen. This fertile land near the mouth of the Nile River was a favorable place for Israel to grow and prosper. They took full advantage of their circumstances. Everything seemed to be going their way. They did indeed prosper until the land was filled with them.

Prosperity seems to always carry with it certain responsibilities, but also certain dangers. We never come to the place in life where we have arrived at complete physical security. It can be taken away in this earthly life.

For a long time Israel prospered because of what Joseph had meant to Egypt. His name stood as the key to their freedom. They were free to be fruitful, increase, and wax mighty. However, the time came when that name would no longer carry weight with the Egyptians. There arose a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. The name Joseph was nothing

to him. The strength of these people concerned him more than some person of the past.

Pharaoh made what he thought was a very wise decision. He and his people did something that was very common in that day. They oppressed the children of Israel. This was supposed to destroy and make them weak. It was supposed to prevent them from becoming an enemy that would join other enemies and fight against Egypt. Pharaoh wanted to save Egypt. Actually he took a major step toward her destruction. When he set himself against God and God's people he made the biggest mistake of his life.

1. Pharaoh made a mistake because his plan didn't work. He intended to deplete Israel by affliction. Instead they multiplied. The more they were afflicted the more they grew.

2. Pharaoh made a mistake because he tried to put down people who had not been his enemy. The threat was not necessarily as great as he thought, and certainly not as great as his punishment.

3. Pharaoh made a mistake because he took a stand against God. He was trying to destroy the very people God had promised to multiply.

The mistakes of Pharaoh brought pain and hardship to God's people. Even then God began to bring his plan for deliverance into action.

II. God Cares When He Begins to Work in Quiet and Unnoticed Ways (2:1-3)

When the days were long and hot, and the people were suffering in their bondage there appeared to be no plan or word for God. Who would have ever dreamed that when a man of the house of Levi took to wife a daughter of Levi that this was the beginning of God's plan? When Moses was born he was not seen by his nation as their deliverer. In fact, he would do well to survive the plan of Pharaoh to destroy every son born to the Hebrews.

The birth of Moses was a part of God's plan. His plan would prevail again and again over Pharaoh's plan. Every day that Pharaoh thought he succeeded he failed, and only God succeeded. At times it no doubt appeared to the children of Israel that Pharaoh was winning, but not so. God's plan would move steadily on toward its ultimate victory.

When Moses' mother placed Moses

in an ark of bulrushes to be found by Pharaoh's daughter, she was in cooperation with God's plan. Moses would be trained at his mother's knee and in Pharaoh's court for his task of deliverance to which God would call him many years later.

III. God Cares When He Chooses to Work Through His Human Instrument (2:11-12)

Moses got off to a poor start in relating to the Egyptians and the Hebrews. Moses cared for his people. When he saw one of them being mistreated it was more than he could stand. He went into action against the Egyptian who was smiting the Hebrew. This encounter resulted in the Egyptian's death. Moses buried him in a shallow grave. However, this was not the end of the matter. Others found out. The news reached Pharaoh and he vowed to kill Moses. Now there was no choice. Moses had to flee for his life. He left Egypt and went into the land of Midian. There he would receive further training for the work God had for him to do. Years later he would need this knowledge in leading the children of Israel out of bondage. He would need to know the land through which they would go.

The future was beginning to take shape for the children of Israel. They could not see what God saw. Moses could not understand all of the things that were taking place in his life. Yet, God moved on toward bringing a prepared Moses and a needy people together in fulfillment of his plan.

IV. God Cares When He Responds to the Cries of His People (2:23-25)

The cries of God's people were sincere. They needed God more than anyone or anything. Their need was desperate; their cry just as desperate. Bondage was reason enough to cry. When they cried to God, he was ready to hear. All of the sufferings, the wrongs with their fears and groans were noticed. God remembered his people and God comforted. He really cared. He would not remain silent forever. His marvellous deliverance would come.

When you are oppressed, cry to God. He will hear. He cares. When you know others are oppressed, pray for them and let God show his caring through your life.

The past cannot be changed, the future is still in your power. —HUGH WHITE

Uniform Lesson

Come to God's feast

By Jerry E. Oswalt, pastor
Second Avenue, Laurel
Isaiah 55:1-13

The setting for our text is a familiar marketplace scene. The prophet is God's spokesman inviting people like a merchant hawking his wares to "come to the waters." (55:1). The original recipients of the invitation, (Israel in exile in Babylon), have already been told by the prophet that through the substitutionary sufferings of the Servant (ch. 53) they may be wonderfully vindicated, restored, and protected (ch. 54). Now they are being invited in an imaginative way to come to the Lord for these blessings.

The method of the prophet-merchant is common to the marketplace of his day but his message is not, for he speaks in paradox "... you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost" (55:1b). I can imagine the bargain hunters quickly crowding around as they would today to storm the doors of a store opening with unusual bargains being offered. The crowd naturally becomes self-attracting and turns into a sea of humanity. I can further envision that such a multitude would arouse the curiosity of a roving reporter looking for a feature story for the evening paper. After working his way through the mob with the help of his press card, the reporter arranges an on-the-spot interview with the prophet-merchant.

I. Reporter: What is happening here?

Prophet: The Lord is inviting people to come to Him for free blessings (55:1-2).

Comment: God is inviting the original recipients of the prophecy to return to Judah and receive the blessings of restoration. In addition, he is inviting all people to come to him. The Bible frequently expresses God's desire that people come to him. Isaiah has another in 1:18, and the Suffering Servant (53) expresses several more during his ministry (Mt. 11:28; 22:4; Mk. 1:17; 10:21). We are assured that his Spirit constantly invites people to come to him and that one of the salient aspects of the mission of the Church, his Bride, is to encourage folk to come to him (Rev. 22:17).

II. Reporter: Who is receiving the invitation?

Prophet: All who are thirsty, poor, wicked, and unrighteous (55:1,7).

Comment: Many of the exiles were homesick. They were longing for

good old Judah water and hungry for some home-grown and homemade wine, milk, and bread. Moreover there was a longing in their hearts, just as there is in the hearts of all men, for something more than mere physical sustenance. Thirst is frequently used in the Bible to refer symbolically to man's yearning for God (Ps. 42:1; Jn. 7:37,38; Rev. 22:17). All people who experience such a yearning are included in the scope of this invitation.

The poor are also encouraged to come. The exiles realized that only an act of God could get them home again. Sensing their poverty, they threw themselves upon His mercy and accepted His gracious invitation. Likewise sinners, realizing they are bereft of adequate resources with which to cope with sin, are invited to come to Him.

In addition, the wicked and unrighteous ones are invited to come to Him (55:7). These flaws in character are descriptive of what happens to man in rebellion against God and they must be rejected as an integral part of the overall response to God's gracious invitation.

III. Reporter: Why is God inviting folk like that to come to him?

Prophet: So that he can give them spiritual satisfaction (55:2), purpose for life (55:3-5), forgiveness of sins (55:7), and hope for the future (55:12,13).

Comment: The exiles are promised that in the restoration they will be satisfied with the water and food of home (55:2). Yet the universal and deeper promise is spiritual satisfaction for those who accepted God's invitation. Just as the word "thirst" sometimes denotes deeper desires, the words "water," "wine," "milk," and "bread" sometimes refer to that which satisfies those deeper desires. Man's thirst for God can only be slaked by the "Living Water" (John 4:10); his hunger for truth only filled by the "Bread from Heaven" (John 6:32); his need for nourishment only provided by the "milk" of the Word (1 Peter 2:2).

The exiles are also promised purpose for living as they respond to God's invitation (55:3-5). God assures them that he will enter into an everlasting covenant with them whereby they will be a witness of the Holy One of Israel to the nations as was David their greatest king. The fulfillment of Israel's purpose came in their Messiah, Jesus of

Nazareth, who established the everlasting covenant as a descendant of David. As partakers in that covenant, the church continues the responsibility and purpose of being witnesses unto him throughout the world (Acts 1:8).

Furthermore, God gives forgiveness of sin to the exiles and to all who welcome his invitation.

In addition, God gives the assurance of a bright future to those who come to him (55:12,13). As Israel goes forth from captivity, she can expect to do so with joy, peace, and celebration because she knows that God is bringing her back to her homeland and that he will provide fertility to its barren soil again. Application to the church is again appropriate, for God's people can expect their future to be filled with joy, peace, and all the fruits of the Spirit that spring forth from formerly barren hearts made fertile by the renewing grace of God.

IV. Reporter: How is God going to provide these blessings?

Prophet: Through the wisdom of his way and the power of his Word (55:8,9).

Comment: God's means of accomplishing his purposes are frequently inscrutable to us. Who would have imagined that the Lord would have used a pagan emperor to release the exiles? Why not raise up another Moses or David from His own people for this purpose? And who would have dreamed that God would choose to free sinners by sending his Son as the Suffering Servant? Why not as Conquering King? The cross was to the Jew a "stumbling-block" and to the Greek "foolishness," because they could not accept the reality of John 3:16. Some continue to shake their heads in unbelief at the Cross, but for those who do believe it is the "power of God unto salvation."

V. Reporter: When and where may people accept this invitation?

Prophet: Here and now (55:8).

Comment: The Lord may be found and is near whenever and wherever his Word is proclaimed. Editor's Note: Due to a proliferation of responsibilities, including becoming acting chairman of the William Carey College Board of Trustees, Jim Keith asked to be relieved of providing the commentary on the Uniform Sunday School Lesson. Jerry Oswalt graciously agreed to provide the commentary for the remainder of the six-month period.